Medal of Honor Historical Society

CAPTAIN MICHAEL J. ESTOCIN, USN

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LAST VIETNAM MEDAL OF HONOR?

BY EDWARD F. MURPHY

What may well be the last Medal of Honor awarded for Vietnam gallantry was presented in ceremonies at the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes by Navy Secretary W. Graham Claytor, Jr. to the widow of Navy Captain Michael J. Estocin on February 27, 1978.

Estocin was born in Turtle Creek, PA on April 27, 1931. After attending local elementary and high schools he went to the State Teachers College at Slippery Rock, PA, graduating in 1954. Upon graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, attended flight school at Chase Field, Beeville, TX, and was commissioned an ensign on September 28, 1955 as a jet fighter pilot. The intervening years saw routine assignments until December 1965 when he was assigned to Attack Squadron 192 embarked on the USS Ticonderoga off Vietnam.

Estocin, by then a lieutenant commander, earned the Medal of Honor for two attacks against North Vietnamese missile sites in April 1967. On April 20th he was leading a group of fighters in an effort to neutralize SAM sites prior to the strategic bombing of two thermal plants in Haiphong. According to the citation Estocin's plane was hit but he "personally neutralized three SAM sites." He limped home, his badly damaged plane sucking needed fuel from an airborne tanker until, "three miles aft of the Ticonderoga, and without enough fuel for a second approach, he disengaged from the tanker and executed a precise approach to a fiery arrested landing."

Six days later Estocin was again flying over Haiphong trying to demolish SAM sites protecting an important fuel facility. His plane was severely damaged by a direct hit from a SAM, but, instead of departing the area with his crippled aircraft, he pressed home the attack, fired his missiles, and only then headed back to the Ticonderoga. This time he did not make it back. He was officially listed as missing in action as of April 26, 1967, the day before his 36th birthday.

No trace of Estocin was found and he was not listed by the North Vietnamese as a POW, but they had often withheld information in the past on captives. When the POW's were released, again there was no word of Estocin. A Medal of Honor recommendation had been approved, but the Navy and the family wanted to wait for the final determination of his status before making the award. With no further information apparently available Lt. Cmdr. Estocin was officially declared killed in action.

Courage was no stranger to Estocin. In addition to the Medal of Honor, his widow, Quay M., and their three daughters, received the DFC, Navy Commendation Medal, 12 Air Medals, and the Purple Heart

TOWN HONORS MEDAL OF HONOR COUSINS

SUBMITTED BY RICHARD D. WOODCOCK

The small rural community of Abingdon, IL recently honored its two local Medal of Honor recipients, Robert H. Dunlap, USMC WWII, and Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale, Navy VN, when it named sections of its new high school for the cousins.

Stockdale, now president of the Naval War College at Newport, RI, was a prisoner of war in Vietnam for seven years after his plane was shot down while on a combat mission over North Vietnam. A 1946 graduate of Abingdon High School he was presented the Medal of Honor by President Ford in 1976.

Dunlap, who now teaches math and coaches basketball at Warren High School near Monmouth, was wounded on Iwo Jima and was presented his Medal of Honor by President Truman in 1946.

The gymnasium of the new high school was named in honor of Dunlap. He responded by saying, "You people are beautiful. The emotions I feel at this moment make it hard for me to speak." Dunlap went on to say, "I'm really just an ordinary fellow, 40 inches around the chest, 40 inches around the waist, and 100 around the golf course." Dunlap told the audience he's not worried about the future, he believes with the youth of today, the United States will be an even better place to live. "It is my hope," he commented, "that the youth of today will enjoy this facility, built by God, and the men and women of this community." He added that with the decline of the influence of family and church "sports may be called upon to assume more responsibility in the teaching of basic human values."

The auditorium at the new high school was named in honor of Admiral Stockdale. Stockdale responded by saying that to him, the auditorium translates into the excellence of the soul, through music and drama. He said when he thinks of Abingdon he dreams of and remembers success. But, Stockdale said, it's important to remember the importance, not only of success, but that life isn't always fair, that the race isn't always won by the swift, or the battle by the strong. He said that it's important to remember that academic skill alone is not enough. He said the wisdom of the ages is returning, that society must maintain discipline.

Stockdale also said that while a prisoner in North Vietnam, his friends and cellmates were very interested in his life in Abingdon. He said he recalls telling them about the municipal band and a pool hall back in the '30s. Stockdale called Abingdon a "microcosm of the best in the USA." He presented the school district with a copy of the original painting of the Battle of Yorktown which took place October 14, 1781. He said when he told Admiral Blacky Weinel, a four star admiral at the Pentagon, that he was traveling

to Illinois for the ceremonies, the admiral took the painting off his wall and offered it as a gift. Stockdale pointed out that a commander in a battle during the Revolutionary War was Captain David Beard, an ancestor of his and Dunlaps. Stockdale also presented the school a small bronze replica of the flag-raising at Iwo Jima. The statue, used as the working model by the sculptor Felix De Weldon, is on permanent loan to the school by De Weldon.

At a press conference prior to the dedication ceremonies Dunlap was asked how he felt about the school being named after him. He replied, "I can't think of any way I could feel more honored, more flattered, then this." Stockdale said he was "thunderstruck, overwhelmed; I started to think of things I wanted to say." Stockdale was named President of the Naval War College in October 1977.

Reprinted from Peoria Journal Star, March 13, 1978

I'D RATHER BE IN THE FIELD - MAJOR HENRY F. SCHROEDER

SUBMITTED BY RAY COLLINS

Henry Frank Schroeder was born on December 7, 1874 in Chicago, IL. It was from there that he, at the age of 19, enlisted in the U.S. Army on July 28, 1896.

Schroeder's first overseas assignment was to Cuba where as a young non-commissioned officer, General Hamilton S. Hawkins ordered him to sound the historic San Juan charge. He was commended in General Order Number 15, Adjutant General's Office, dated February 13, 1900 for an "especially meritorious act of conduct in service in being of the utmost assistance in securing the simultaneous advance of the line by repeating the sound of 'Forward' although each call of the trumpet was sure to attract heavy fire. This while a musician of Company L, 16th US Infantry at the battle of Santiago, Cuba, on July 1, 1898." General Hawkins was impressed enough by his actions to recommend Schroeder for the Medal of Honor.

General Hawkins had this to say of Schroeder's actions: "On July 1st, 1898, Schroeder was one of my trumpeters during the assault on Fort San Juan, Cuba, when every signal by trumpet to the brigade was also the signal for renewed heavy fire from the Spanish entrenchments upon the group of which he was a member. Nevertheless, the signals were given accurately when ordered. His cool self-possession under fire prompted me to recommend him for a Medal of Honor, or at least for a Certificate of Merit, carrying extra pay." Schroeder, however, was awarded neither. He was later given a Silver Star citation for this act of bravery.

After his service in Cuba Schroeder was sent with his outfit to the Philippines where he eventually served six years. Schroeder again distinguished himself in combat several times. On September 14, 1900, the Pueblo of Craig, Isabela Province was suddenly attacked by a force of insurgents estimated at between four and five hundred. SGT Schroeder, although dangerously wounded quite early in the fight, having been shot in the hip, retained and exercised the command of his men. After a desperate fight, lasting over four hours, the enemy was completely routed with a loss of over 120 killed and wounded. Schroeder and his detachment were commended in General Order Number 20, Headquarters, 2nd District, Department of Northern Luzon, Philippine Islands, December 3, 1900: "The heroic stand made and results accomplished, by this little detachment in the face of such vast number of assailants and beyond a probability of reenforcements are circumstances of which every man there may well be proud. The courage and fortitude displayed by every man engaged render it a matter of some difficulty to call attention to individuals. It is thought, however, that the conduct of SGT Schroeder deserves some special mention." Schroeder did receive "some special mention" being presented the Medal of Honor on March 10, 1902 for his gallant conduct that day.

Schroeder returned to the United States and spent over a year in various hospitals. He carried with him for the rest of his life the bullet that entered his hip. While in the United States he met and married Pearl Dernell of Atlanta, GA. Schroeder returned to the Philippines where he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of the Philippine Scouts on September 9, 1905. He remained there until 1918. His subsequent assignments included an assistant professorship in Military Science at Emory University, Atlanta, GA, Birmingham High School, Birmingham, AL, and Indianapolis High School, Indianapolis, IN. He retired from active duty as a major on February 29, 1930. When World War II broke out, he was recalled to active duty, but refused a desk job, saying, "I'd rather be in the field. I am a foot soldier."

Following his retirement after World War II, Schroeder moved to California where he was very active as a member of the Military Affairs Committee of the Long Beach Chamber of Commerce. In the summer of 1956 he was honored by the 16th Infantry Regiment with a five day visit to Fort Riley, KS, where he reviewed the troops and presented his Medal of Honor to the unit's new historical museum. He was given an honorary membership in the Society of the First Division and was also a life member of the Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Schroeder died at Bellflower, CA on January 26, 1959 and was buried at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetary, San Diego, CA. At the time of his death he was the second oldest holder of the Medal of Honor. He was survived by his wife.

THE FACTS ABOUT THE BIRTHPLACE OF ROBERT BLAKE, USN CIVIL WAR

BY PRESTON AMOS

Recently this writer was perusing some documents on Medal of Honor research and was startled to read that Virginia had been the state of birth of Robert Blake, the first black to receive the Navy's Medal of Honor. Blake, who held the rating of "contraband", was cited for bravery "on board the Steam Gunboat Marblehead off Legarville, Stono River (South Carolina), 25 December 1863, in an engagement with the enemy on John's Island." Blake's Medal of Honor entry does not accredit him to any state, saying only "biography not available." Using Irvin H. Lee's Negro Medal of Honor Men as its source, this citation supplement states: "NAVY HERO ROBERT BLAKE LOCATED AS RUNAWAY VIRGINIA SLAVE. . .A. Residence at time of entering service: Virginia. B. This Negro hero's service may be credited to Virginia by virtue of residence at time of entering the service and his name may be deleted from the Unknown Locale category . . ."

Lee does indeed state on page 41 (3rd Edition) of his Negro Medal of Honor Men that "Blake enlisted in the Federal Navy after escaping from a Virginia plantation." There is no way of determining where Lee obtained this information because his book is not documented. It does have a one-page bibliography, but this bibliography does not include all of the material he used. For instance, he made extensive use of documents in the National Archives, but there is no indication of this in the bibliography. It does not really matter where Lee obtained this information about Blake. What matters is that it is incorrect.

In doing the research for a book this contributor is writing about the black recipients of the Medal, his wife and he went to the National Archives and consulted the Muster Rolls of the Marblehead for information about Robert Blake. From its 1863 Rolls it was learned that Blake had been "captured" and had enlisted in the Navy at Port Royal, SC. The Marblehead's Muster Rolls also indicate the Blake was rated a "contraband," was black, and had been received from the USS Vermont, the flagship of Admiral Samuel F. DuPont, commander of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron. The space under "where born," "occupation," "height," and "remarks" are blank.

A check of the Vermont's Muster Rolls disclosed additional, more interesting information about Blake, including the fact that he reenlisted and returned to the Vermont after serving on the Marblehead. The Vermont's Muster Roll of 31 March 1864 lists Blake as a "contraband landsman" who enlisted aboard the Vermont on 17 January 1864 for one year. Moreover, it states he was born in South Santee, SC. It also indicated he was a 22 year old who stood at five feet five inches and had black eyes, black hair and a "Negro complexion." Blake was promoted to seaman after his deed of valor aboard the Marblehead and this rating is indicated on the Vermont's Muster Roll of 31 July 1864. It is not known what happened to Blake after 31 July 1864 because the Vermont's Muster Rolls from

that date until 30 September 1866 are missing.

From a letter in another Archives source (Letters Received Relating to Medals of Honor, January 1, 1862 - December 31, 1866, 2 vols, Record Group 24), it was learned that "Robert Blake is from the Blake plantation on the Santee river - burned by an expedition from one of the Union gunboats in 1862." This letter about Blake was written by the Marblehead's skipper, Lieutenant Commander Richard W. Meade, Jr., the officer who recommended Blake for the award. Written on 13 April 1864 the letter also states that "Blake is quite an intelligent Negro, although of course, utterly uneducated, having been a field-hand on his late master's plantation" and "he was made a seaman by Admiral (John A.) Dahlgren at his commander's instance and was transferred in January last to the U.S. Ship Vermont at Port Royal, S.C."

Once it was known that Blake had been "captured" and was from a Blake plantation that had been burned by a Union vessel in 1862, the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion was checked to determine if more information about Blake could be found. Nothing about Blake per se was uncovered but much about him can be surmised from what was learned from Vol 13, Series I of this source.

The burning of the Blake plantation occurred during the Union naval expedition up the Santee River in late June of 1862. The expedition was led by Commander George A. Prentiss and consisted of four steamers. Its objective was to destroy a railroad bridge some 70 miles from the mouth of the river, but the objective was not realized because three of the steamers could not negotiate some of the sharp bends encountered in the river. Before it was forced to turn back, the expedition sailed by the Blake plantation without incident, even though, as Commander Prentiss stated in his report, "This plantation had long been the headquarters of a regiment stationed there to protect vessels running the blockade through South Santee and Alligator Creek." But in passing the plantation the second time, the expedition was fired upon by artillery, infantry, and cavalry. The ships suffered no damage but, according to Prentiss, "we turned back, shelled them into the woods, landed the marines and a party of seaman, burned the mill and dwellings that harbored them, together with about 100,000 bushels of rice." He continued to state that afterwards, "near 400 slaves came down to the steamers and were taken aboard."

Following the engagement at Blake's plantation, the four Union vessels proceeded to Winyah Bay, anchored and landed the contrabands on North Island. Commander Prentiss wrote his report to Admiral Du Pont on 2 July 1862 while anchored in the bay. He informed the admiral that the number of contrabands on North Island had "swelled to over 600, and is increasing daily by arrivals." He also mentioned to the admiral that "I forward the 60 you require for the Vermont by the Hope," one of the four steamers that participated in the Santee River expedition. It should be noted that the number of contrabands - 60 - mentioned by Prentiss as being required for the Vermont may be an error and possibly

only a typographical error at that because on June 24, while the expedition was still under way, Du Pont, aboard the flagship at Port Royal harbor, wrote Prentiss that "you will please send down twenty contrabands (single men, of course) for service on board the Vermont."

Thus, this is the story of Robert Blake and from whence he came.

WHO SAYS OLD SOLDIERS FADE AWAY?

SUBMITTED BY RAYMOND C. WADE

Iowa's most decorated warrior has hung up his fighting togs for a new career as a lawyer. When Air Force Colonel George E. "Bud" Day, 52, formerly of Sioux City, doffed his parachute and flight gear for the last time about a month ago, it marked the end of a 30 year military career spanning 35 years and 3 wars.

Known informally as "Bud" or "Doctor" Day, a former Iowa Air National Guard pilot, spent 5½ years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam until his release on March 12, 1973. During that time he constantly defied his captors despite crippling punishment and torture. Col. Day was awarded the Medal of Honor for his escape from his captors, despite injuries. After 12 days and almost within sight of friendly forces, Day was recaptured and tortured anew. He was hung upside down from a rafter and hisplaster-encased broken arm was rebroken.

When he was repatriated in 1973 he challenged the statements of actress Jane Fonda (who had said POWs had not been tortured) by rolling up his trouser legs and showing the scars on his knees and legs.

Day's credentials as a hero are in order but he refuses to sit back and rest on his laurels. So he's embarking on a new career as an attorney and "enjoying every minute of it. Being in a courtroom is almost as exciting as flying. Unexpected things happen in a courtroom, same as when you're flying and you have to do a lot of things right to be a winner. I'm a full-fledged civilian again. I received a medical discharge with a 30 per cent disability (for cripplied hands and arm)." Day passed the Florida Bar exam last year and has opened a law office at Fort Walton Beach. He was admitted to the South Dakota Bar in 1949.

Day was born February 24, 1925, at Sioux City. He attended Central High School there until 1942 when he dropped out to join the Marine Corps. After that war ended, Day served with Reserve and Air Guard units in Sioux City and received a bachelor's degree from Morningside College and a doctorate in law from the University of South Dakota at Vermillion. He also holds a doctor of humane letters degree from Morningside and a master of arts degree from St. Louis University.

Day married the former Doris Sorensen of Sioux City in 1940. They have four children - Steven, 22; George, Jr., 14, and twins Sonja and Sandra, 13. During the Vietnam War, Mrs. Day, then living in Glendale, AZ was active in the organization of wives and relatives trying to get humane treatment for American POWs. Mrs. Day had it doubly hard - the North Vietnamese never acknowledged that he was a POW. Several anxious years went by before his presence in Hanoi was verified by another prisoner.

In addition to the Medal of Honor, Day has also received the Air Force Cross, Distinguished Service Medal, Silver Star, three Bronze Stars, the Distinguished Flying Cross, 10 Air Medals, and the Purple Heart. He also received the South Vietnamese Medal of Honor and Gallantry Cross, that country's two highest awards. He is surely the most decorated Vietnam veteran and is called the most decorated senior officer since General MacArthur. Day has received over 70 military awards, including 50 for combat duty. He is the only Air Force man to have received both the Medal of Honor and the Air Force Cross. He received the Air Force Cross for resisting torture when his captors were trying to learn about the secret communications used by POWs.

Day was flying a F100 jet fight when he was shot down on August 26, 1967. Besides his many combat medals, he also carries some 150 scars on his buttocks as a painful reminder of being beaten with a fan belt while a POW. Day's spirit was never broken by his captors and he openly defied them once by leading 300 POWs in singing the "Star Spangled Banner." "Those things are all in the past," Day said recently. "I haven't had a nightmare in about three or four months. For a long time I had this recurring dream during which the torturers in prison camp kept trying to pull my arm off. That tends to make you wake up screaming. When I look at the scars I remember Jane Fonda, and how now all of a sudden she's been rehabilitated and no one's mad at her anymore. I don't know who's been putting out that baloney lately about her, but I'm sure I and all good citizens still feel she's a traitor, who still thinks the communists are great. She's never said she changed her mind about statements she made about American POWs or that she was sorry. And what happened to her and all those moralists who called us murderers and killers during the war? Those peaceniks condemned us for killing people in a war over there but now that the communists are killing people in Cambodia and Laos, no one's bleating about that. Not one peep about that. It's just a double standard. When Americans were killing people, it was immoral; when the communists kill them, it seems to be okay."

Day says he always will be a firebrand carrying the torch of liberty and freedom. He's much in demand as a speaker and finds time to teach courses in law and communism in South-east Asia

at Troy State University in Florida. Old soldiers may just fade away, but not Day. Though he changed his Air Force blue for civilian garb, it doesn't mean Day will sit back and look at his medals and plaques with teary-eyed memories. "Too many things to do, too much of life to enjoy. Who knows," he said, "I may even get into politics."

Reprinted from Des Moines Register, January 27, 1978

SAFEGUARDING THE MEDAL OF HONOR

SUBMITTED BY CHARLES A. HOLMES

The Medal of Honor was created during the Civil War as a badge of honor to be awarded in the name of Congress for service to the Nation. The Resolution which President Abraham Lincoln signed on July 12, 1862, establishing the Army Medal of Honor provided for presentation of "medals of honor" to "such noncommissioned officers and privates as shall most distinguish themselves by their gallantry in action and other soldier-like qualities". The term "other soldier-like qualities" plagued Army officials charged with carrying out the intent of the new law. The poor choice of words in the Resolution opened the door for claims to the Medal by persons whose services did not merit award of the Nation's highest military decoration.

By 1916 there had been 2,625 awards of the Medal of Honor. Some of the Medals had been granted for acts which involved neither individual risk of life nor acts above and beyond the call of duty. In fact, a few of the Medals had been awarded without citation of any specific deed at all. At least one Medal appears to have been handed out as a souvenir.

It was not until 1904 that Medal of Honor award recommendations had to include an officially documented description of the deed performed. In the same year, Army uniform regulations were revised to provide that the Medal of Honor would be worn pendant from the neck, thus providing the Medal yet another mark of distinction. The Medal gained further stature in 1905 when President Theodore Roosevelt issued an Executive Order providing that future Medals would be presented in a "formal and impressive ceremony" by the President or his designated representative. Through these and other protective actions, the American Medal of Honor was achieving the same high prestige as the French Legion of Honor and the German Iron Cross.

The National Defense Act of June 3, 1916 - the Army reorganization bill that brought the United States Army into the twentieth century - included a section which directed the Secretary of War to appoint a board of five retired generals "for the purpose of investigating and reporting upon past awards or issue of the so-

called congressional medal of honor by or through the War Department; this with a view to ascertain what medals of honor, if any, have been awarded or issued for any cause other than distinguished conduct by an officer or enlisted man in action involving actual conflict with an enemy."

The first Army Medal of Honor winner, Assistant Surgeon Bernard J.D. Irwin, was still on active duty (serving as a Brigadier General) when the Board was established. Irwin had earned his Medal at Apache Pass, AZ in February 1861, voluntarily leading infantry troops in an operation which rescued members of the 7th Infantry Regiment who had been surrounded by hostile Indians while chasing Cochise. An investigative board could only benefit Irwin and others whose Medals were truly deserved. The Board would reaffirm their heroic deeds and at the same time would single out for removal from the Medal of Honor Roll the names of persons holding Medals but whose service did not merit such high recognition.

The Army and Navy Journal reported in its June 3, 1916 issue, that the investigation was designed to deprive retired LTC Asa B. Gardiner of his Medal. Gardiner had supposedly aroused the ire of certain Congressmen by his attacks upon the National Guard features of the National Defense Act. Section 122, the Section requiring the investigation, was not in the original bill introduced in the Senate and the House; rather, the language calling for the Board was added by the Senate and House conferees after Gardiner attacked the bill via the New York Times.

No matter what the motive for Section 122, the effect was laudable. The actions of the Board helped elevate the Medal to the illustrious status it enjoys today.

LT GEN Nelson A. Miles was named President of the Board in War Department Special Orders No. 136, dated June 10, 1916. The 76-year old Miles had served on active duty for 42 years, first attaining general officer rank in 1864 at age 24. He became Commanding General of the Army in 1895 and retired in 1903. Special Orders No. 136 also named the following to the Board: LT GEN Samuel B.M. Young, MAJ GEN Joseph P. Sanger, BGEN Butler D. Price, BGEN James N. Allison. GEN Allison never served; he was replaced by BGEN Oswald H. Ernst. LTC Henry Jervey served as recorder for the Board until August 29, 1916 when MAJ Oscar J. Charles, 22nd Infantry, took over the recorder duties. The recorder assigned each case a number, shielding the name from the Board and thus assuring Board action was taken without knowledge of the identity of the person concerned.

Between October 1916 and January 1917 the Board met frequently, reviewed all previous awards of the Medal, and reported that 911 Medal holders did not meet the criterion specified in the new law. Each of the 911 cases was marked "Stricken from the list February 15, 1917, Adverse Action Medal of Honor Board -A.G. 2411162"

Before the Board began acting on individual cases GEN Miles wrote Secretary of War Newton D. Baker and suggested "it is assumed it is not the intention of Congress to deprive anyone of this distinguished honor where it (the Medal) has been worthily bestowed for most extraordinary, hazardous, and dangerous service." He added "if the provisions of Section 122 are strictly complied with the board is of the opinion that grave injustice would be done to a class of public servants who have rendered most conspicuous acts of heroism that would be recognized in any country of the World." Miles felt that to take away Medals in such cases "would be a cruel act toward a class that the Government has manifestly desired to honor."

GEN Miles' letter to Baker was an attempt to preserve the Medals that had been awarded to William F. "Buffalo Bill" Cody and four other civilians who had been cited for service as Army guides and scouts in the Indian Wars.

Secretary Baker sent a copy of the Miles letter to the Military Affairs Committee Chairmen of both the Senate and the House. A week after Miles penned his letter, amendatory language was introduced in the Senate, but the amendment was rejected on a point of order.

In its final report the Board expressed the opinion that Cody and the other four civilian Indian fighters had "rendered distinguished service in action and fully earned their medals". The Board report contained a final plea that the War Department avoid an injustice by deferring action on these cases until Congress could consider a modification of the law that would permit Buffalo Bill and the other four individuals to retain their Medals. Congress never acted on the matter; neither the Board nor the Secretary of War had authority to do other than follow the letter of the law and strike the names from the Medal of Honor Roll.

The Board records noted that LTC Gardiner had been issued a Medal in 1872 upon his own written application to Secretary of War Belknap. No claim was made of any feat of distinguished bravery or conspicuous gallantry; Gardiner merely wrote "I understand there are a number of bronze medals for distribution to soldiers of the late war, and request I may be allowed one as a souvenir of memorable times past". During this period, an engraver submitted a bill for inscribing 15 Medals. War Department records show 16 Medals issued. This discrepancy caused the Board to speculate that Gardiner's Medalmight be only a souvenir. Buttressing the Board denial of the Medal to Gardiner was a statement GEN Schoefield had made in 1891 that the Medal "(did)not appear to have been formally granted . . . and cannot be classed as one of the medals of honor." Whether or not some Members of Congress were "after" Gardiner, withdrawal of his Medal of Honor seems clearly justified.

The only woman ever to be awarded the Medal was included in the list of those names to be stricken from the Medal of Honor Roll. Dr. Mary E. Walker, a "woman's rights" advocate, had served as a contract surgeon in the Civil War. Dr. Walker was awarded the Medal by President Andrew Johnson in November 1865 for "meritorious service and professional and other services rendered to sick and wounded prisoners and soldiers and prisoners of war." No time or place of any personal engagement with the enemy was on file and the Board noted that her service "does not appear to have been distinguished in action or otherwise." Official records show that Dr. Walker applied for appointment as a surgeon but Secretary of War Stanton refused the appointment on September 30, 1865, noting the "adverse report of Surgeon General." This adverse report undoubtedly influenced the Board to single out the Walker case for special mention and to state "there is no evidence of distinguished gallantry." In June 1977 the Secretary of the Army announced that he had approved the recommendation of the Army Board for Correction of Military Records to restore the Medal of Honor to Dr. Walker. In the author's view, the Army provided no satisfactory justification for the sudden, unprecedented rejection of the careful deliberation of the 1916 Board. This writer fears they overreacted to the clamoring of some Members of Congress and others who had been pressing for restoration of the Walker Medal. (More about this will be heard in future issues of the "Annals" ed.)

Eight hundred sixty-four of the Medals stricken from the list had been authorized for persons serving in the 27th Maine Volunteer Infantry in 1863. The term of service of the regiment was about to expire and Medals were promised to those who would volunteer to remain in service until the outcome of the Gettysburg Campaign were known. The 27th was defending Washington, D.C. and fear of a Confederate attack had prompted the promise of Medals to those who would stay with the Regiment. Only 309 members of the 27th volunteered to remain but the Medal was inadvertently approved for every member of the Regiment.

Another 29 Medals stricken from the list had been awarded by the Secretary of War on May 20, 1865 to the officers and enlisted men escorting the remains of the late President Lincoln to Springfield, IL, for interment. The 4 officers and 25 first sergeants were all members of the 1st Brigade, Veterans Reserve Corps. Although they were "the best and most reliable men in the command" and although they performed an important duty, escort service hardly compares with the acts of others who hold the coveted Medal. The honor of serving in the escort party undoubtedly was a reward in itself and must have given each of the members a high degree of satisfaction at being chosen for such a solemn task.

By formally removing from the Medal of Honor Roll the names of those whose qualifications for the Nation's supreme symbol of honor were clouded by doubt, the Board safeguarded the Medal of Honor.

Reprinted from "The Retired Officer" July 1977

HERO LOST IN HISTORY

BY ENS FRANCIS C. BROWN, MSC, USN

Hospital Apprentice Robert H. Stanley, USN, was the first hospital corpsman to earn the Medal of Honor, Several researchers have tried to track down information on Stanley, but little is known about the life of this early Hospital Corps hero.

We do know that he was born in Brooklyn, NY on May 2, 1881. After enlisting in the Navy on March 28, 1898, Stanley was assigned to serve on the USRS Vermont.

Almost two years later, in June 1900, the Boxer Rebellion erupted in China and the foreign legations in Peking were beseiged. HA Stanley, then serving in the area, went with the first detachment of U.S. Marines to guard the legation quarter during the 56 days of the seige. The travails of that legation guard are described in this excerpt from the Annual Report of the Surgeon General, U.S. Navy, 1901 (p. 271): "The Marine Guard in Pekin was practically beseiged, under almost constant fire, from about the middle of June until August 14. During this period they were not only subject to the usual hazards of war, but suffered the hardships due to insanitary surroundings in a confined space, without suitable food or adequate facilities for the sick and wounded owing to the overcrowding. Of the total force of 56 officers and enlisted men, 7 were killed outright and 10 were wounded, 1 of the latter dying subsequently as a result of the wound and an intercurrent attack of typhoid fever."

According to Mulholland, at one point the American legation had to get a message through to the English legation. Because the route went through a quarter packed with rebels and the risk was great, the American minister, Mr. Conger, said he could not order anyone to go. When Conger asked for volunteers, HA Stanley immediately stepped forward. We know that Stanley completed his important mission, but can only guess at the difficulties he encountered in running the Boxer gauntlet.

The Medal of Honor was presented to HA Stanley aboard the USS Brooklyn, in the presence of the entire crew, in 1902. The rest of Stanley's naval career is lost to history. He retired from the Navy on February 1, 1939 and died on July 15, 1942.

Reprinted from U.S. Navy Medicine, July, 1977.

PENSION HIKE

The special pension given to holders of the Medal of Honor would be increased to $200 per month from the current $100 according to the terms of a bill passed by the House on July 26, 1978. The pension for combat heroism is awarded in addition to any other pension the recipient may qualify for. Action is still pending in the Senate before the increase becomes official.

THE CASE OF THE NON-POSTHUMOUS POSTHUMOUS AWARD

BY STEPHEN CARR

During the summer of 1900, the United States had military forces fighting in both the Philippines and China. While the Army was engaged fighting the Insurrgents in the Philippines, a small band of marines and sailors were defending the legation sector in Peking as an international expedition was fighting inland to relieve them. This international expedition found the fighting particularly heavy around the city of Tientsin, where eight Americans received the Medal of Honor for gallantry on July 13. Of these eight, seven were listed (in the Green Book) as living to receive their awards while the eighth, Robert Henry von Schlick, supposedly had his Medal conferred posthumously. This information, however, is incorrect. von Schlick survived his act by almost 41 years.

Robert von Schlick was born in Germany on January 2, 1875, the son of William and Wilhelmina von Schlick. He went to sea at an early age, serving with the United States Revenue Cutter Service, at the age of 14, in 1889. von Schlick remained with the Revenue Service through the Spanish-American War, finally leaving the Service at San Francisco in May 1899. Less than two months later, on July 5, 1899, he enlisted at San Francisco as a private in Company C, 9th U.S. Infantry. At the time of his enlistment he was described as being 5'9" tall and having a ruddy complexion, blue eyes, and blond hair.

von Schlick was quickly trained and sent to the Philippines by the end of 1899. There, he suffered repeated attacks of both tertian and quartan malaria, which hospitalized him for periods of up to two weeks at a time. von Schlick had just suffered through one of these attacks when the 9th Infantry sailed for China in early June 1900.

After landing in China, the 9th Infantry became a part of the international expedition and participated in the fighting along the route to Peking. On July 13 von Schlick was a member of a foraging party which was ambushed by a group of Boxers. After the initial exchange of fire, von Schlick noticed a wounded comrade laying in an exposed position. He ran to the wounded man and began to carry him to safety. While performing this act,

von Schlick was severely wounded. Nevertheless, he carried the wounded man to a place of safety and then rejoined the foraging party, assuming an exposed position on a dike. He remained in this exposed position, drawing the Boxer's fire, while the other members of the party withdrew. von Schlick continued to fire into the Boxers, killing several, until he was felled by two more severe wounds. Fortunately, some of his comrades had come back to help him. They quickly carried him away from the attacking Boxers.

von Schlick's three wounds appeared fatal at the time. One bullet had entered his left cheek, fracturing the jaw bone and lodging in his neck near the spine. A second bullet passed through his left shoulder joint. The third passed through his left lung, fracturing his shoulder blade and exiting near his spine. He was treated for his wounds at the Army Hospital in Tientsin, but the sanitary conditions there were less than ideal. When he was finally placed aboard the USS Solace on August 6, he was near death. His wounds were discharging puss and his left arm and hand were paralyzed.

Aboard the Solace von Schlick's condition began to improve. When the ship arrived in San Francisco on August 30, he was transfered to the Presidio General Hospital, where the bullet lodged near his spine was finally removed. He was discharged, by a surgeon's certificate of disability, on October 20, 1900.

von Schlick was originally recommended for the Medal of Honor by LT W.H. Waldron, his company commander, on July 19, 1900. This recommendation, however, was lost or misplaced. On June 13, 1903 von Schlick wrote to the commander of the 9th Infantry, COL C.F. Roble, and asked about the Medal. His letter was forwarded, along with Roble's approval, to the Secretary of War. This was not approved and von Schlick was given merely a "mention in orders" for his act. Ten years later, though, the Army apparently had a change of heart and awarded the Medal of Honor to von Schlick on June 7, 1913.

von Schlick settled in San Francisco after his discharge and began to work, using his good right arm, as a brick mason. He later moved to upstate New York where, on January 15, 1910, he married Wilhelmina Adelheit at Syracuse. The couple later lived in Ithica, Batavia, and Buffalo. While in Buffalo, von Schlick deserted his wife and moved to Portland, OR. He later moved to Seattle, WA and Seward, AK before returning to Portland. In 1915, two years after he had left her, his wife traced him to Portland and they were reunited for a short while. On July 4, 1916, von Schlick again deserted his wife and moved to San Francisco. She followed him there and had him arrested for desertion, but later dropped the charges. Both von Schlick and his wife then moved - separately - to the Los Angeles area. They remained there for the rest of their lives.

On July 9, 1940, almost 40 years after performing his Medal of Honor deed, von Schlick was issued Medal of Honor Certificate #388 and given the $10 per month pension. Less than a year later, on April 8, 1941, he was admitted to the West Los Angeles Veterans Hospital. He died there on July 1, 1941 and was buried in the hospital's cemetery.

CMH FOR WWI VET?

Submitted by William A. Thurston

He didn't know the language too well, but he knew how to fight for his new country. Italian immigrant Vincent Pantozzi at age 18 eloquently expressed his love for the United States by his actions in World War I with the 9th Infantry Regiment.

Wounded and gassed, Pantozzi fought in five key battles in France, often without food or water. His exploits earned him 11 military decorations, including the Distinguished Service Cross twice, the Silver Star three times, and the Purple Heart twice.

Pantozzi died October 7, 1976 at age 82. At first he was denied burial in Arlingtion. But the Army finally relented. His son, Vincent Pantozzi, Jr., of Jersey City, NJ, now reports that the Army is considering a posthumous Medal of Honor for his father, with Sen. Clifford Case (R-NJ) interceding with the Defense Department. Pantozzi's father was a member of the American Legion. The son is a member of Post 860, New York, NY.

If the Medal of Honor is approved, it would be the most belated award of all time. (ed's note: The awards of the DSC to Pantozzi must have been made subsequent to 1926 as he is not listed in the Army reference book published in 1927).

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MEDAL OF HONOR BROTHERS

BY EDWARD F. MURPHY

Since the Medal of Honor was instituted during the hectic days of the Civil War, five sets of brothers have had the distinction of wearing the Medal of Honor. The only pair not to earn their Medals during the same conflict were the Gaujot brothers, Antoine and Julien.

Julien, born in Pennsylvania, and Antoine (Tony), a native of Michigan, settled with their family in Williamson, WV in 1894. Their father, COL Ernest Gaujot, who became a civil engineer shortly after his arrival in the United States from France during the latter part of the Civil War, spent a number of years in Japan doing construction work shortly after his marriage to Miss Ellen McGuigan of Richmond, VA. At the time of his arrival in Williamson, COL Gaujot was resident engineer for Kountz Bros. of New York, a firm which owned the mineral rights in several areas of what is now Mingo County, WV. With the help of his two boys, Julien born in 1874 and Tony born in 1878, he surveyed and laid out a great part of the City of Williamson.

In April 1898 war was declared against Spain and the call for volunteers went out. Both Julien and Tony immediately responded and helped to form Company K of the 2nd West Virginia Volunteer